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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of a study to identify the demographic characteristics of undergraduate students enrolled in agriculture majors at Tennessee universities. These characteristics are analyzed: background data, parental information, high school data, work experience, college experience, and goals. Responses are presented for the total group and by university. Narrative information and data tables are included. Background information includes race, age, country of citizenship, home states, majors, and marital status. Parental information is provided in these areas: places where mother and father were raised, farming status of parents, current occupations and employment status of fathers and mothers, parental income, fathers' and mothers' highest level of educational attainment, and political preference. High school data include type of high school attended, size of high school graduating class, high school grade point average, agriculture classes offered, agriculture classes completed, classes that influenced students, and participation in high school activities. Work and college experience concerns are type of work experience, other universities attended, influential people, change in major, and factors important in choosing major. Following are some findings: (1) female and minority enrollment is low; (2) declining numbers of students have agricultural background or experience; (3) parents heavily influence students' choice of major; and (4) students need current, accurate information about career opportunities in agriculture. (YLB)

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A STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AGRICULTURE MAJORS AT TENNESSEE UNIVERSITIES

by
Ben L. Byler

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Introduction

The number of young people electing to study agriculture has declined at an alarming rate during the past few years. High school enrollment in vocational agriculture programs has decreased 20 percent since 1980 (Office of Vocational and Adult Education, 1986). Between 1977-86, undergraduate enrollment in agriculture majors at our nation's universities has declined 34 percent (Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Science, 1986).

Fewer students are seeking graduate degrees in agriculture, and almost one-third of those receiving Ph.D. degrees are awarded to international students returning to their native country (Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Science, 1986).

The Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences (1984) has predicted a critical shortage of highly qualified scientists, managers, and technical professionals with agricultural expertise.

The declining enrollment and the challenge of meeting the human capital needs in agriculture have created a national concern for developing better techniques for recruiting, advising, and retaining high quality students interested in studying agriculture.

Research studies that focus on the characteristics of students currently enrolled in agriculture majors at our colleges and universities are critical to the development of effective recruitment, advisement, and retention strategies.

Purposes and Objectives

The primary purpose of this study was to identify the demographic

characteristics of undergraduate students enrolled in agriculture majors at Tennessee universities. Characteristics to be identified and analyzed were grouped as follows: Background Data, Parental Information, High School Data, Work Experience, College Experience, and Goals.

Procedure

This study was conducted during the 1986-87 academic year. Institutions participating in the study were: Austin Peay State University, Clarksville; Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville; and Tennessee State University, Nashville. The academic dean, director, or department chairman responsible for undergraduate programs in agriculture at these universities was asked to serve as on-campus coordinator to administer the questionnaire and collect the data.

Population

The population for this study consisted of undergraduate students enrolled in agriculture majors at Tennessee universities during the 1986-87 academic year.

Sample

The sample consisted of undergraduate agriculture majors enrolled in at least one agriculture course at the time the survey was distributed at participating universities by on-campus coordinators.

Data Collection

The survey instrument was constructed by Bowen et. al., (1983) and was revised and adapted by the researcher for use in this study. Each university coordinator administered the survey instrument to students in agriculture classes during the 1986-87 academic year. Approximately 70 percent of the undergraduate students enrolled in agriculture majors at Austin Peay State

University, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Tennessee State University, and Tennessee Technological University participated in the study.

Analysis of Data

Frequencies and percentages were calculated on each item of the survey instrument. Responses are presented for the total group and by university.

Results

Background Data

Four hundred ninety-four or 65.9 percent of the agriculture majors were male, while 256 or 34.1 percent were female (Table 1). The closest balance between male and female students enrolled in agriculture majors was at Tennessee State University where 59.5 percent were male, and 40.5 percent were female. The largest difference in the number of male and female students was at Austin Peay State University where 75.4 percent of the students were male and 24.6 percent where female.

The race of students enrolled in agriculture majors grouped by the Tennessee university attending is presented in Table 2. Over 91 percent of the students were white or Anglo-American, and 5.6 percent were black or Afro-American. The university having the largest percent of white or Anglo-American students was Tennessee Technological University (97.5 percent).

The average age of students participating in the study is presented in Table 3. The oldest average age (23.8) of students was at Tennessee State University. The average age of students at other universities participating in the study ranged from 21.9 at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville to 21.1 at Tennessee Technological University. The average age for students at all universities participating in the study was 21.7 years.

Table 4 presents the country of citizenship of students enrolled in

Table 1

Sex of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Sex	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Male	225 (62.2)	22 (59.5)	115 (67.3)	89 (72.4)	43 (75.4)	494 (65.9)
Female	137 (37.9)	15 (40.5)	56 (32.8)	34 (27.6)	14 (24.6)	256 (34.1)
Total	362	37	171	123	57	750

Table 2

Race of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Race	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
American Indian	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)
Black or Afro-American Negro	3 (0.8)	33 (89.2)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	3 (5.3)	42 (5.6)
Mexican-American or Chicano	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)
Other Latin-American origin	5 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (0.8)
Oriental or Asian-American	6 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	7 (0.9)
White or Anglo-American	342 (94.7)	2 (5.4)	165 (97.1)	119 (97.5)	54 (94.7)	682 (91.3)
Other	3 (0.8)	2 (5.4)	3 (1.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (1.07)
Total	361	37	170	122	57	747

Table 3

Age of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

University	Average Age
University of Tennessee-Knoxville	21.9
Tennessee State University	23.8
Middle Tennessee State University	21.2
Tennessee Technological University	21.1
Austin Peay State University	21.9

Table 4

Country of Citizenship of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Country	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
United States	352 (97.2)	34 (91.9)	171 (100.0)	122 (99.2)	56 (98.3)	735 (98.0)
Non-United States	10 (2.8)	3 (8.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)	1 (1.8)	15 (2.0)
Total	362	37	171	123	57	750

agriculture majors at Tennessee universities. Ninety-eight percent of the students were U. S. citizens, and only 2 percent were non-United States citizens. All students from Middle Tennessee State University participating in the study indicated they were U. S. citizens.

The home states of participants in the study grouped by the university they were attending is presented in Table 5. Almost 86 percent of the students were from Tennessee; whereas, only 14.3 percent were from out of state. The university having the largest number of out-of-state undergraduate students enrolled in agriculture majors was at Tennessee State University (8 or 22.2 percent). The university having the smallest number of out-of-state students was Tennessee Technological University, with 12 or 9.8 percent.

Table 6 presents the frequencies and percents of undergraduate students in the study grouped by their agriculture majors and university attending. Forty-two percent of the students participating in the study were animal science/pre-vet majors. The next largest group were plant and soil science majors (134 or 19.3 percent). Agribusiness economics majors comprised 123 or 17.7 percent of the participants. The largest percent of agribusiness economics majors were at Austin Peay State University (19 or 33.9 percent). The University of Tennessee-Knoxville comprised the largest number of agricultural and Extension education majors (16 or 4.9 percent). The largest percent of animal science majors was at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (149 or 45.9 percent), followed by Middle Tennessee State University with 72 or 44.2 percent. The largest percent of plant and soil science majors was at Middle Tennessee State University (38 or 23.3 percent).

The college classification of students participating in the study is summarized in Table 7. Two hundred ninety-nine or 39.8 percent were seniors,

Table 5

Home States of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Home State	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Tennessee	299 (83.5)	28 (77.8)	150 (88.8)	111 (90.2)	48 (85.7)	636 (85.7)
Other Than Tennessee	59 (16.5)	8 (22.2)	19 (11.2)	12 (9.8)	9 (14.3)	106 (14.3)
Total	358	36	169	123	56	742

Table 6

Undergraduate Students Grouped by Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Major	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Agribusiness Economics	34 (10.5)	5 (13.9)	45 (27.6)	20 (17.5)	19 (33.9)	123 (17.7)
Agricultural and Extension Education	16 (4.9)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	8 (7.0)	1 (1.8)	27 (3.9)
Agricultural Engineering/ Technology	24 (7.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	12 (10.5)	0 (0.0)	36 (5.2)
Animal Science/Pre-Vet	149 (45.9)	14 (38.9)	72 (44.2)	44 (38.6)	12 (21.8)	291 (42.0)
Forestry/Pre-Forestry	29 (8.9)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	32 (4.6)
Plant and Soil Science	67 (20.6)	4 (11.1)	38 (23.3)	23 (20.2)	2 (3.6)	134 (19.3)
General Agriculture	6 (1.9)	13 (36.1)	4 (2.5)	6 (5.3)	22 (40.0)	51 (7.3)

Table 7

College Classification of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

College Classification	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Freshman	52 (14.4)	3 (8.1)	40 (23.5)	27 (22.0)	14 (24.6)	136 (18.2)
Sophomore	70 (19.3)	2 (5.4)	37 (21.8)	29 (23.6)	10 (17.5)	148 (19.8)
Junior	85 (23.5)	13 (35.1)	35 (20.6)	18 (14.6)	15 (26.3)	166 (22.2)
Senior	155 (42.8)	19 (51.4)	58 (34.1)	49 (39.8)	18 (31.6)	299 (39.8)
Total	362	37	170	123	57	749

166 or 22.2 percent were juniors, 148 or 19.8 percent were sophomores, and 18.2 or 136 were freshmen. These data suggest that the agriculture enrollment in colleges and universities will probably continue to decline. Each graduating class for the next three years will become progressively smaller because the number entering the pool becomes progressively smaller each year.

Table 8 reveals the marital status of students enrolled in agriculture majors at participating Tennessee universities. Almost 86 percent of the students were single, 11.5 were married, and 2.8 percent were separated or divorced.

The kind of place students had lived most of their life is revealed in Table 9. Two hundred forty-six or 32.8 percent of the students participating in the study indicated they had lived in the country and on a farm or ranch. One hundred ten or 14.7 percent indicated they had lived in the country outside a city or village, but not on a farm. The largest percent of students who had lived in the country and on a farm or ranch most of their life was at Austin Peay State University (27 or 47.3 percent). The next largest percent of students who had lived in the country and on a farm or ranch were from Tennessee Tech University which, had 52 or 42.3 percent. Ninety-six or 26.6 percent of the participants from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville said they had lived in the country and on a farm or ranch most of their life. Only 2 or 5.4 percent of the students at Tennessee State University had lived in the country and on a farm or ranch most of their life.

Parental Information

The kind of place the participants' mothers were raised is summarized in Table 10. Two hundred twenty or 29.4 percent of the mothers of the students

Table 8

Marital Status of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Marital Status	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Single	317 (87.6)	31 (83.8)	148 (86.6)	102 (82.9)	44 (77.2)	642 (85.6)
Married	36 (9.9)	5 (13.5)	18 (10.5)	17 (13.8)	10 (17.5)	86 (11.5)
Separated	2 (0.6)	1 (2.7)	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.8)	5 (0.7)
Divorced	6 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.3)	4 (3.3)	2 (3.5)	16 (2.1)
Widowed	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)
Total	362	37	171	123	57	750

Table 9

Place Lived Most of Life for Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Place Lived	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
A large metropolitan city (over 500,000 in population)	25 (6.9)	6 (16.2)	14 (8.2)	6 (4.9)	1 (1.8)	52 (6.9)
A medium sized city (50,000 to 500,000 in population)	73 (20.2)	13 (35.1)	13 (7.6)	12 (9.8)	11 (19.3)	122 (16.3)
A smaller city (10,000 to 50,000 in population)	62 (17.2)	4 (10.8)	39 (22.8)	19 (15.5)	9 (15.8)	133 (17.8)
A town or village (under 10,000 in population)	46 (12.7)	7 (18.9)	17 (9.9)	12 (9.8)	4 (7.0)	86 (11.5)
In the country, outside of a city or village	59 (16.3)	5 (13.5)	19 (11.1)	22 (17.9)	5 (8.8)	110 (14.7)
In the country and on a farm or ranch, outside of a city or village	96 (26.6)	2 (5.4)	69 (40.4)	52 (42.3)	27 (47.3)	246 (32.8)
Total	361	37	171	123	57	749

Table 10

Place Mother was Raised for Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Place Mother Raised	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
A large metropolitan city (over 500,000 in population)	27 (7.5)	5 (13.5)	19 (11.2)	7 (5.7)	3 (5.3)	61 (8.2)
A medium-sized city (50,000 to 500,000 in population)	50 (13.9)	7 (18.9)	22 (12.9)	16 (13.0)	4 (7.0)	99 (13.2)
A smaller city (10,000 to 50,000 in population)	66 (18.3)	3 (8.1)	29 (17.1)	11 (8.9)	12 (21.1)	121 (16.2)
A town or village (under 10,000 in population)	79 (21.9)	7 (18.9)	30 (17.7)	21 (17.1)	9 (15.8)	146 (19.5)
In the country, outside a city or village	47 (13.0)	12 (32.4)	17 (10.0)	19 (15.5)	6 (10.5)	101 (13.5)
In the country and on a farm or ranch, outside of a city or village	92 (25.5)	3 (8.1)	53 (31.2)	49 (39.8)	23 (40.4)	220 (29.4)
Total	361	37	170	123	57	748

were raised on a farm or ranch, and 101 or 13.5 percent were raised in the country outside a city or village. Over 40 percent of the mothers of students from Austin Peay State University were raised on a farm or ranch. Almost 40 percent of the mothers of students from Tennessee Tech University were raised on a farm or ranch. About 31 percent of the mothers of the students from Middle Tennessee State University were raised on a farm or ranch. Almost 26 percent of the mothers of students from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville were raised on a farm or ranch, and 8.1 percent of the mothers of students from Tennessee State University were raised on a farm or ranch.

The kind of place the students' fathers were raised is presented in Table 11. Almost 38 percent of the fathers were raised on a farm or ranch, and 12.4 percent were raised in the country outside of a city or village. Almost 56 percent of the fathers of students from Austin Peay State University were raised on a farm or ranch; 45.5 percent of the fathers of students from Tennessee Tech University were raised on a farm or ranch; 42.1 percent of the fathers of students from Middle Tennessee State University were raised on a farm or ranch; 33.3 percent of the fathers of students from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville were raised on a farm or ranch; and 5.4 percent of the fathers of students from Tennessee State University were raised on a farm or ranch.

The farming status of students' parents is summarized in Table 12. The students participating in the study were asked if their parents were presently living on a farm or ranch which they owned, leased, tenant farmed, or they did not live on a farm but they owned, rented, or leased a farm. Three hundred fifty-nine or 48 percent of the students participating in the study said their parents were not presently living on farm or ranch. Of the

Table 11

Place Father was Raised for Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Place Father Raised	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
A large metropolitan city (over 500,000 in population)	29 (8.1)	5 (13.5)	13 (7.6)	7 (5.7)	2 (3.5)	56 (7.5)
A medium-sized city (50,000 in population)	55 (15.3)	11 (29.7)	14 (8.2)	15 (12.2)	3 (5.3)	98 (13.1)
A smaller city (10,000 to 50,000 in population)	56 (15.6)	2 (5.4)	28 (16.4)	10 (8.1)	9 (15.8)	105 (14.0)
A town or village (under 10,000 in population)	58 (16.1)	11 (29.7)	23 (13.5)	16 (13.0)	6 (10.5)	114 (15.2)
In the country, outside of a city or village	42 (11.7)	6 (16.2)	21 (12.3)	19 (15.5)	5 (8.8)	93 (12.4)
In the country and on a farm or ranch, outside a city or village	120 (33.3)	2 (5.4)	72 (42.1)	56 (45.5)	32 (56.1)	282 (37.7)
Total	360	37	171	123	57	748

Table 12

Farming Status of Parents of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Are parents presently living on a farm or ranch?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes, one they own	137 (37.9)	5 (13.5)	75 (44.1)	64 (52.0)	31 (55.4)	312 (41.7)
Yes, one they lease or rent	2 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.8)	1 (0.8)	3 (5.36)	9 (1.20)
Yes, one they tenant-farm	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.8)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.7)
No, but they own, rent, or lease one	35 (9.7)	2 (5.4)	13 (7.7)	11 (8.9)	2 (3.6)	63 (8.4)
No	187 (51.7)	30 (81.1)	76 (44.7)	46 (37.4)	20 (35.7)	359 (48.0)
Total	362	37	170	123	56	748

52 percent whose parents were presently living on a farm or ranch, 312 or 41.7 percent said yes, they were living on one that they owned, 9 or 1.2 on one that they lease or rent, and 5 or .7 percent on one that they tenant-farm.

If the parents of students participating in the study own, lease, rent, or tenant farm a farm or ranch, they were asked to indicate what part of their total income is from agricultural production. Sixty-nine or 18.3 percent indicated that agricultural production was their primary source of income, 217 or 57.4 said it was their secondary source of income, and 92 or 24.3 percent indicated that they just live there but get no income from the farm (Table 13).

Table 14 presents the analysis of the current occupation of fathers of students participating in the study. Almost 77 percent of the fathers of students participating in the study indicated their primary source of income was from non-agricultural occupations. One hundred eleven or 15.1 percent were in agricultural production occupations.

Table 15 reveals that 497 or 67.1 percent of the fathers of students participating in the study were employed full-time, 12 or 1.6 percent were employed part-time, and 110 or 14.8 percent were self-employed.

The current occupation of mothers of students participating in the study is summarized in Table 16. Over 98 percent of the mothers of students indicated their occupation was non-agriculture or home economics related. Only 11 or 1.5 percent were in agricultural production related occupations.

Table 17 reveals the current employment status of mothers of students participating in the study. Two hundred thirty-seven or 32.1 percent indicated their mothers were housewives. Three hundred fifty-two or 47.6 percent indicated their mothers were employed full-time, 61 or 8.3 percent

Table 13

Part of Total Income from Agricultural Production for Parents of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

If parents own, lease, rent, or tenant-farm a farm or ranch, what part of their total income is from agricultural production?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Primary source of income	35 (21.7)	2 (18.2)	14 (14.9)	11 (14.1)	7 (20.6)	69 (18.3)
Secondary source of income	85 (52.8)	4 (36.4)	60 (63.8)	47 (60.3)	21 (61.8)	217 (57.4)
Just live there but get no income	41 (25.5)	5 (45.5)	20 (21.3)	20 (25.6)	6 (17.7)	92 (24.3)
Total	161	11	94	78	34	378

Table 14

Current Occupation of Father of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Occupational Codes	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Marketing, Merchandising, and Sales Representative	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	3 (2.4)	4 (7.4)	9 (1.2)
Scientists, Engineers, and Related Specialists	7 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.8)	3 (2.4)	1 (1.9)	14 (1.9)
Managers and Financial Specialists	5 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.8)	2 (1.6)	3 (5.6)	13 (1.8)
Social Services Professionals	2 (0.6)	1 (2.9)	1 (0.6)	2 (1.6)	1 (1.9)	7 (1.0)
Agricultural Production Specialists	51 (14.3)	2 (5.9)	21 (12.5)	25 (20.3)	12 (22.2)	111 (15.1)
Education, Communication, and Information Specialists	9 (2.5)	0 (0.0)	5 (3.0)	1 (0.8)	1 (1.9)	16 (2.2)
Non-Agricultural Occupations	281 (78.9)	31 (91.2)	134 (79.8)	87 (70.7)	32 (59.3)	565 (76.9)
Total	356	34	168	123	54	735

Table 15

Current Employment Status of Father of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Current Employment Status	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Full-time	240 (66.9)	23 (63.9)	122 (72.2)	80 (65.0)	32 (59.3)	497 (67.1)
Part-time	3 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	3 (2.4)	4 (7.4)	12 (1.6)
Self-employed	52 (14.5)	3 (8.3)	28 (16.6)	19 (15.5)	8 (14.8)	110 (14.8)
Unemployed	2 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)
Disabled	7 (2.0)	1 (2.8)	2 (1.2)	3 (2.4)	3 (5.6)	16 (2.2)
Retired	38 (10.6)	4 (11.1)	7 (4.1)	12 (9.8)	3 (5.6)	64 (8.6)
Deceased	17 (4.7)	5 (13.9)	8 (4.7)	6 (4.9)	4 (7.4)	40 (5.4)
Total	359	36	169	123	54	741

Table 16

Current Occupation of Mother of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Occupational Codes	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Managers and Financial Specialists	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.1)
Agricultural Production Specialists	8 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	11 (1.5)
Education, Communication, and Information Specialists	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)
Non-Agriculture and Home Economics Related	345 (97.2)	33 (100.0)	161 (98.7)	118 (98.3)	50 (100.0)	707 (98.1)
Total	355	33	163	120	50	721

Table 17

Current Employment Status of Mother of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Current Employment Status	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Housewife	126 (34.9)	4 (11.4)	52 (31.0)	38 (31.4)	17 (31.5)	237 (32.1)
Full-time employed	162 (44.9)	24 (68.6)	85 (50.6)	58 (47.9)	23 (42.6)	352 (47.6)
Part-time employed	27 (7.5)	1 (2.9)	12 (7.1)	13 (10.7)	8 (14.8)	61 (8.3)
Self-employed	24 (7.2)	0 (0.0)	11 (6.6)	5 (4.1)	1 (1.9)	43 (5.8)
Unemployed	5 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.8)	4 (3.3)	1 (1.9)	13 (1.8)
Disabled	3 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.9)	5 (0.7)
Retired	9 (2.5)	1 (2.9)	2 (1.2)	2 (1.7)	3 (5.6)	17 (2.3)
Deceased	3 (0.8)	5 (14.3)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	11 (1.5)
Total	361	35	168	121	54	739

were employed part-time, and 43 or 5.8 percent were self-employed.

The parental income of students is summarized in Table 18. Two hundred seventy-six or 41 percent of participants indicated their parental income was between $25,000 to $49,999; 112 or 16.6 percent indicated parental income of between $50,000 to $74,999; and 102 or 15.2 percent indicated a parental income of between $20,000 to $24,999.

The highest school level completed by mothers of students participating in the study is presented in Table 19. Two hundred seventy-four or 36.9 percent of the students indicated their mothers had graduated from high school, and 118 or 16 percent of the mothers had completed a bachelors degree.

The highest school level completed by fathers of students participating in the study is revealed in Table 20. One hundred ninety-five or 26.4 percent of the students indicated the highest school level completed by their fathers was high school or high school equivalent. One hundred twenty-seven or 17.2 percent indicated the highest school level completed by their fathers was a bachelors degree. One hundred thiry-four or 18.2 percent of the fathers had completed graduate work beyond the bachelors degree.

Table 21 presents the political preference of students participating in the study. One hundred sixteen or 15.7 percent of the students said they are conservative; 141 or 19.1 percent said they are somewhat conservative; 237 or 32 percent said their political preference was moderate; 83 or 11.2 percent said they are somewhat liberal; and 61 or 8.2 percent said they are liberal.

The political preference of the mother of students participating in the study is presented in Table 22. One hundred forty-eight or 20.1 percent of the students indicated the policital preference of their mother was

Table 18

Parental Income of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Parent's Average Yearly Income	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Less than $5,000	9 (2.8)	1 (3.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.7)	2 (4.3)	14 (2.1)
$5,000 to 9,999	8 (2.5)	0 (0.0)	5 (3.1)	4 (3.4)	2 (4.3)	19 (2.8)
$10,000 to 14,999	17 (5.3)	3 (10.7)	6 (3.8)	14 (12.0)	3 (6.4)	43 (6.4)
$15,000 to 19,999	23 (7.2)	1 (3.6)	10 (6.3)	15 (12.8)	5 (10.6)	54 (8.0)
$20,000 to 24,999	45 (14.0)	5 (17.9)	26 (16.3)	20 (17.1)	6 (12.8)	102 (15.2)
$25,000 to 49,999	134 (41.7)	8 (28.6)	67 (41.9)	48 (41.0)	19 (40.4)	276 (41.0)
$50,000 to 74,999	54 (16.8)	7 (25.0)	36 (22.5)	7 (6.0)	8 (17.0)	112 (16.6)
$75,000 to 99,999	10 (3.1)	3 (10.7)	2 (1.3)	4 (3.4)	1 (2.1)	20 (3.0)
Over $100,000	21 (6.5)	0 (0.0)	8 (5.0)	3 (2.6)	1 (2.1)	33 (4.9)
Total	321	28	160	117	47	673

Table 19

Highest School Level Completed by Mothers of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

High School Level Completed by Mothers	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Less than 9th grade	7 (2.0)	5 (14.3)	6 (3.5)	7 (5.7)	3 (5.5)	28 (3.8)
Some high school but didn't graduate	13 (3.6)	2 (5.7)	11 (6.4)	12 (9.8)	5 (9.1)	43 (5.8)
Vocational training but didn't graduate from high school	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)
Graduated from high school or high school equivalent (e.g., GED)	128 (35.8)	11 (31.4)	63 (36.8)	49 (39.8)	23 (41.8)	274 (36.9)
Vocational training after high school	24 (6.7)	1 (2.9)	15 (8.8)	12 (9.8)	4 (7.3)	56 (7.6)
Some college but didn't graduate (including junior college)	64 (17.9)	3 (8.6)	33 (19.3)	22 (17.9)	2 (21.8)	134 (18.1)
College graduate (bachelors degree)	73 (20.4)	6 (17.1)	24 (14.0)	13 (10.6)	2 (3.6)	118 (16.0)
Graduate work (beyond bachelors degree)	43 (12.1)	6 (17.1)	18 (10.5)	8 (6.5)	4 (7.3)	79 (10.7)
Don't know	5 (1.4)	1 (2.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (3.6)	8 (1.1)
Total	358	35	171	123	55	742

Table 20

Highest School Level Completed by Father of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Highest School Level Completed by Father	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Less than 9th grade	14 (3.9)	6 (17.1)	8 (4.7)	14 (11.4)	5 (9.3)	47 (6.4)
Some high school but didn't graduate	15 (4.2)	2 (5.7)	11 (6.5)	7 (5.7)	5 (9.3)	40 (5.4)
Vocational training but didn't graduate from high school	4 (1.1)	1 (2.9)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	2 (3.7)	10 (1.4)
Graduated from high school or high school equivalent (e.g., GED)	85 (23.8)	4 (11.4)	49 (29.0)	39 (31.7)	18 (33.3)	195 (26.4)
Vocational training after high school	26 (7.3)	4 (11.4)	10 (5.9)	12 (9.8)	0 (0.0)	52 (7.1)
Some college but didn't graduate (including junior college)	65 (18.2)	3 (8.6)	27 (16.0)	15 (12.2)	9 (16.7)	119 (16.1)
College graduate (bachelors degree)	62 (17.4)	6 (17.1)	29 (17.2)	21 (17.1)	9 (16.7)	127 (17.2)
Graduate work (beyond bachelors degree)	83 (23.3)	6 (17.1)	30 (17.8)	12 (9.8)	3 (5.6)	134 (18.2)
Don't know	3 (0.8)	3 (8.6)	3 (1.8)	2 (1.6)	3 (5.6)	14 (1.9)
Total	357	35	169	123	54	738

Table 21

Political Preference of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Political Preference	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Conservative	60 (16.8)	8 (21.6)	19 (11.3)	4 (13.0)	5 (23.6)	116 (15.7)
Somewhat conservative	74 (20.7)	7 (18.9)	28 (16.7)	21 (17.1)	11 (20.0)	141 (19.1)
Moderate	107 (30.0)	9 (24.3)	57 (33.9)	48 (39.0)	16 (29.1)	237 (32.0)
Somewhat liberal	44 (12.3)	2 (5.4)	19 (11.3)	14 (11.4)	4 (7.3)	83 (11.2)
Liberal	33 (9.2)	3 (8.1)	15 (8.9)	8 (6.5)	2 (3.6)	61 (8.2)
Don't know	39 (10.9)	8 (21.6)	30 (17.9)	16 (13.0)	9 (16.4)	102 (13.8)
Total	357	37	168	123	55	740

Table 22

Political Preference of Mother of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Political Preference of Mothers	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Conservative	72 (20.2)	8 (22.9)	25 (15.0)	28 (22.8)	15 (28.3)	148 (20.1)
Somewhat conservative	77 (21.6)	6 (17.1)	32 (19.2)	17 (13.8)	5 (9.4)	137 (18.6)
Moderate	87 (24.4)	7 (20.0)	46 (27.5)	37 (30.1)	19 (35.9)	196 (26.7)
Somewhat liberal	27 (7.6)	0 (0.0)	11 (6.6)	9 (7.3)	0 (0.0)	47 (6.4)
Liberal	20 (5.6)	3 (8.6)	11 (6.6)	5 (4.1)	0 (0.0)	39 (5.3)
Don't know	74 (20.7)	11 (31.4)	42 (25.2)	27 (22.0)	14 (26.4)	168 (22.9)
Total	357	35	167	123	53	735

conservative, and 39 or 5.3 indicated their mother was liberal. One hundred sixty-eight or 22.9 percent of the participants indicated they did not know the political preference of their mother.

Table 23 presents the political preference of the father of students participating in the study. One hundred sixty-six or 22.8 percent of the students said the political preference of their father was conservative and 33 or 4.5 percent of the students said their father was liberal. One hundred seventy-two or 23.7 percent said they did not know the political preference of their father.

High School Data

The type of high school attended by students participating in the study is presented in Table 24. Almost 93 percent of the students had attended a public high school; whereas, only 6.8 percent had attended a private high school.

Table 25 reveals the size of high school graduating classes of students participating in the study. Two hundred ninety-nine or 40.1 percent had a high school graduating class of between 200-399. Only 27 or 3.6 percent indicated their high school graduating class was 600 or more.

The overall high school grade point average of students participating in the study is summarized in Table 26. Four hundred or 54 percent their overall high school grade was B. One hundred sixty-eight or 22.7 said their overall high school grade was C, and 153 or 20.7 percent said their overall high school grade was A.

Table 27 presents the number and percent of students graduating from high schools where agriculture courses were offered. When asked if agriculture courses were offered in their high school, 512 or 68.5 percent indicated that agriculture courses were offered. Two hundred sixteen or 28.9

Table 23

Political Preference of Father of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Political Preference of Fathers	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Conservative	83 (23.5)	6 (17.1)	29 (17.7)	32 (26.0)	16 (30.8)	166 (22.8)
Somewhat conservative	80 (22.6)	9 (25.7)	33 (20.1)	22 (17.9)	5 (9.6)	149 (20.5)
Moderate	73 (20.7)	7 (20.0)	37 (22.6)	31 (25.2)	13 (25.0)	161 (22.2)
Somewhat liberal	25 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	12 (7.3)	7 (5.7)	2 (3.9)	46 (6.3)
Liberal	15 (4.3)	4 (11.4)	11 (6.7)	3 (2.4)	0 (0.0)	33 (4.5)
Don't know	77 (21.8)	9 (25.7)	42 (25.6)	28 (22.8)	16 (30.8)	172 (23.7)
Total	353	35	164	123	52	727

Table 24

Type of High School Attended by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Type of High School Attended	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Public	334 (92.5)	36 (97.3)	158 (93.5)	115 (93.5)	50 (89.3)	693 (92.9)
Private (religious)	18 (5.0)	1 (2.7)	7 (4.1)	6 (4.9)	3 (5.4)	35 (4.7)
Private (non-religious)	8 (2.2)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.4)	2 (1.6)	2 (3.6)	16 (2.1)
Other (e.g., GED, etc.)	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.8)	2 (0.3)
Total	361	37	169	123	56	746

Table 25

Size of High School Graduating Class of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Number of Students in High School Graduating Class	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Less than 25	5 (1.4)	1 (2.7)	3 (1.8)	2 (1.6)	4 (7.3)	15 (2.0)
25-49	13 (3.6)	2 (5.4)	11 (6.4)	12 (9.8)	4 (7.3)	42 (5.6)
50-74	12 (3.3)	1 (2.7)	16 (9.4)	19 (15.5)	1 (1.8)	49 (6.6)
75-99	19 (5.3)	1 (2.7)	6 (3.5)	6 (4.9)	4 (7.3)	36 (4.8)
100-149	50 (13.9)	2 (5.4)	15 (8.8)	16 (13.0)	14 (25.5)	97 (13.0)
150-199	47 (13.1)	9 (24.3)	17 (9.9)	11 (8.9)	8 (14.6)	92 (12.3)
200-399	145 (40.3)	18 (48.7)	76 (44.4)	45 (36.6)	15 (27.3)	299 (40.1)
400-599	52 (14.4)	1 (2.7)	22 (12.9)	11 (8.9)	3 (5.5)	89 (11.9)
600 or more	17 (4.7)	2 (5.4)	5 (2.9)	1 (0.8)	2 (3.6)	27 (3.6)
Total	360	37	171	123	55	746

Table 26

Overall High School Grade Point Average of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Overall High School Grade	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
A	89 (24.9)	1 (2.7)	25 (14.7)	27 (22.0)	11 (20.4)	153 (20.7)
B	190 (53.2)	20 (54.1)	92 (54.1)	71 (57.8)	27 (50.0)	400 (54.0)
C	67 (18.8)	16 (43.2)	50 (29.4)	21 (17.1)	14 (25.9)	168 (22.7)
D	11 (3.1)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.8)	4 (3.3)	2 (3.7)	20 (2.7)
Total	357	37	170	123	54	741

Table 27

Agriculture Courses Offered in High School of Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Were agriculture courses offered in high school?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	204 (56.4)	27 (73.0)	131 (77.1)	100 (81.3)	50 (89.3)	512 (68.5)
No	144 (39.8)	8 (21.6)	35 (20.6)	23 (18.7)	6 (10.7)	216 (28.9)
Don't know	14 (3.9)	2 (5.4)	4 (2.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	20 (2.7)
Total	362	37	170	123	56	748

percent said that agriculture courses were not offered, and 20 or 2.7 percent said they did not know if agriculture courses were offered in their high school. The largest percentage of students from high schools that offer agriculture were at Austin Peay State University (50 or 89.3 percent), and the smallest percent were at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (204 or 56.4 percent).

Table 28 presents the number and percent of participants who completed agriculture courses in high school. Of the 745 agriculture majors responding to this item of the questionnaire, 448 or 60.1 percent said they did not take agriculture courses in high school. Two hundred ninety-seven or 39.9 percent said they had completed agriculture courses in high school. The largest percent of participants of the study who had taken agriculture courses in high school were from Austin Peay State University (36 or 64.3 percent). The second largest group that had taken agriculture courses in high school were from Tennessee Technological University (63 or 51.6 percent). The smallest percent of students had completed agriculture courses in high school were from Tennessee State University in which only 10 or 27.0 percent had completed high school agriculture courses.

Participants of the study were asked, "Did one course in high school, more than any other course, influence your decision to choose an agriculture major in college?" Responses to this item of the questionnaire are presented in Table 29. Two hundred forty-four or 32.6 percent of the students indicated that one course in high school more than any other course did influence their decision to choose an agriculture major in college. Five hundred four or 67.4 percent said that there was not one course in high school more than any other that influenced their decision to choose an agriculture major in college. The largest percent responding "yes" to this

Table 28

Agriculture Courses in High School Completed by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Did you take agriculture courses in high school?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	109 (30.3)	10 (27.0)	79 (46.5)	63 (51.6)	36 (64.3)	297 (39.9)
No	251 (69.7)	27 (73.0)	91 (53.5)	59 (48.4)	20 (35.7)	448 (60.1)
Total	360	37	170	122	56	745

Table 29

Course in High School That Had Most Influence in Decision to Choose an Agriculture Major at Tennessee Universities

Did one course in high school, more than any other course, influence your decision to choose an agriculture major in college?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	97 (26.9)	11 (29.7)	62 (36.5)	50 (40.7)	24 (42.1)	244 (32.6)
No	264 (73.1)	26 (70.3)	108 (63.5)	73 (59.4)	33 (57.9)	504 (67.4)
Total	361	37	170	123	57	748

item of the questionnaire were from Austin Peay State University (24 or 42.1 percent). The smallest percentage responding "yes" were from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (97 or 26.9 percent).

Participants who said "yes" that one course in high school more than any other course influenced their decision to choose an agriculture major in college, were then asked to indicate the type of high school course that had the most influence (Table 30). One hundred fifty-four or 61.1 percent said that agriculture was the course in high school that had the most influence in their decision to choose an agriculture major. Seventy-six or 30.2 percent said that a biological sciences course in high school had the most influence in their decision to choose an agriculture major. Forty-seven or 46.5 percent of the students from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville said that agriculture was the course in high school that had the most influence in their decision to choose an agriculture major, and the same number from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville also said that biological sciences was the type of course in high school that had the most influence in their decision to choose an agriculture major.

Table 31 presents the type of high school activities by students participating in the study. Four hundred thirty-two or 62.5 percent said they had participated on athletic teams. Three hundred thirteen or 50.4 percent said they had participated in honorary clubs such as Beta Club or the national honor society. Two hundred fifteen or 35.5 percent said they had participated in a student council or student government political club. Of this group, 118 or 19.5 percent said they had participated as a leader. Three hundred five or 49 percent of the students had participated in 4-H Club, and 269 or 43.2 percent of the students had participated in FFA activities.

Table 30

Type of Course in High School That Had Most Influence in Decision to Choose an Agricultural Major at Tennessee Universities

Type of High School Course	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Agriculture	47 (46.5)	3 (27.3)	47 (73.4)	38 (74.5)	19 (76.0)	154 (61.1)
Home Economics	2 (2.0)	4 (36.4)	4 (6.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	10 (4.0)
Biological Sciences	47 (46.5)	3 (27.3)	10 (15.6)	11 (21.6)	5 (20.0)	76 (30.2)
Physical Science	3 (3.0)	1 (9.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (2.0)
Other	2 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (4.7)	1 (2.0)	1 (4.0)	7 (2.8)
Total	101	11	64	51	25	252

Table 31

Participation in High School Activities by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Type of Activities	Participated As Leader		Participated		Did Not Participate	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Athletic teams, lettermen's club	133	19.6	299	44.0	248	36.5
Intramurals, sports club	62	10.0	254	41.0	304	49.0
Cheerleaders, pep club, drill team	43	7.3	124	21.0	424	71.7
Debating, drama, band, chorus	79	13.0	185	30.2	348	56.9
Hobby clubs such as photography, model building, hot rod, electronics, crafts	39	6.6	155	26.1	400	67.3
Honorary clubs such as Beta Club or National Honor Society	80	12.9	233	37.5	308	49.6
School newspaper, magazine, yearbook, annual	60	10.0	115	19.0	430	71.0
School subject matter clubs such as science, history, language, business, art	98	15.6	284	45.3	245	39.1
Student council, student government political club	118	19.5	97	16.0	390	64.5
4-H	127	20.4	178	28.6	317	51.0
FFA	174	28.0	95	15.3	353	56.8
FHA	26	4.6	48	8.4	498	87.1
Other vocational clubs such as Future Teachers, DECA, OEA, FBEA, HERO, or VICA	56	9.5	84	14.2	451	76.3

Work Experience

Table 32 presents the number and percent of students who had received farm or ranch work experience on their home farm. Eighty-seven percent of the students from Austin Peay State University said they had received farm or ranch work experience on the home farm. Almost 76 percent of the students from Tennessee Technological University; 73.9 percent of the students from Middle Tennessee State University; 59.4 percent of the students from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville; and 42.4 percent of the students from Tennessee State University had received farm or ranch work on the home farm. Almost 67 percent of the students had received farm or ranch work on the home farm.

Table 33 indicates the farm or ranch work students had received elsewhere as a hired employee. Four hundred twenty-one or 59.3 percent of the students said they had received farm or ranch work experience elsewhere as a hired employee.

Table 34 indicates other agriculture related work experience received by students participating in the study. Four hundred ninety or 70.2 percent of the participants said they had received other agriculture related work experience prior to enrolling in agriculture majors at Tennessee universities participating in the study.

Other work experience received by students participating in the study is summarized in Table 35. Six hundred seventeen of the students participating in the study said they had received work experience other than agriculture related work experience.

College Experience

Students participating in the study were asked to indicate whether or not they had attended another university or college before entering their

Table 32

Farm or Ranch Work Received on Home Farm by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Farm or ranch work on home farm?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	202 (59.4)	14 (42.4)	122 (73.9)	91 (75.8)	47 (87.0)	476 (66.9)
No	138 (40.6)	19 (57.6)	43 (26.1)	29 (24.2)	7 (13.0)	236 (33.1)
Total	340	33	165	120	64	712

Table 33

Farm or Ranch Work Received Elsewhere as a Hired Employee by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Farm or ranch work elsewhere as a hired employee?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	174 (51.3)	11 (31.4)	109 (66.9)	88 (73.3)	39 (73.6)	421 (59.3)
No	165 (48.7)	24 (68.6)	54 (33.1)	32 (26.7)	14 (26.4)	289 (40.7)
Total	369	35	163	120	53	710

Table 34

Other Agriculture-Related Work Experience Received by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Other agriculture-related work experience received?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	234 (69.9)	15 (42.9)	121 (75.2)	82 (70.1)	38 (76.0)	490 (70.2)
No	101 (30.2)	20 (57.1)	40 (24.8)	35 (29.9)	12 (24.0)	208 (29.8)
Total	335	35	161	117	50	698

Table 35

Other Work Experience Received by Students Enrolled in

Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Other work experience?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	301 (89.6)	27 (84.4)	138 (87.9)	103 (88.8)	48 (88.9)	617 (88.8)
No	35 (10.4)	5 (15.6)	19 (12.1)	13 (11.2)	6 (11.1)	78 (11.2)
Total	336	32	157	116	54	695

present university. This information is summarized in Table 36. Four hundred sixty-seven or 62.5 percent said they had not attended another university ~~or~~ college before entering their present university. One hundred thirty-nine or 18.6 percent of the students said they had attended a two-year college, and 126 or 16.9 percent said they had attended a four-year college before entering their present university. The University of Tennessee-Knoxville had the largest percent of students transferring from another college or university. Seventy-eight or 21.6 percent had attended a two-year college and sixty-nine or 19.1 percent had attended a four-year college before entering the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. The next largest group of students who had attended another university or college before entering their present university was at Middle Tennessee State University. Twenty-nine or 17 percent had attended a two-year college, and 32 or 18.7 percent had attended a four-year college before transferring to MTSU.

The participants of the study were asked the degree of influence that people had been in helping them choose their college major. This information is summarized in Table 37. People having the most influence listed by percentile rank are as follows: father; mother; college teacher or advisor; other relative; college friend; former student; high school friend; veterinarian; vocational agriculture teacher; brother; other teacher or principal; high school counselor; sister; county Extension agent; dean or associate dean; clergyman. The first three of this list, father, mother, and college teacher or adivsor, were almost twice as influential as the next leading peson.

Students were asked to indicate whether or not they had ever changed their major or concentration since enrolling in college (Table 38). Three hundred fifty-three or 47.2 percent of the students said they had changed

Table 36

Students Attending Another University or College Before

Entering Present University

Did you attend another university or college before you entered your present university?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
No	205 (56.8)	26 (70.3)	108 (63.2)	85 (69.1)	43 (78.2)	467 (62.5)
Yes, a 2-year college	78 (21.6)	4 (10.8)	29 (17.0)	24 (19.5)	4 (7.3)	139 (18.6)
Yes, a 4-year college	69 (19.1)	6 (16.2)	32 (18.7)	13 (10.6)	6 (10.9)	126 (16.9)
Other	9 (2.5)	1 (2.7)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	2 (3.6)	15 (2.0)
Total	361	37	171	123	55	747

Table 37

Degree of Influence People Have Been in Helping Agriculture Students Choose Their College Major

People	Very Influential		Some Influence		No Influence	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Father	229	31.0	292	39.6	217	29.4
Mother	191	25.9	318	43.1	229	31.0
College teacher or advisor	174	24.0	187	25.8	363	50.1
Other relative	120	16.6	194	26.9	408	56.5
College friend	112	15.5	186	25.8	424	58.7
Former student	104	14.5	148	20.6	466	64.9
High school friend	66	9.2	186	25.9	466	65.0
Veterinarian	119	16.4	117	16.2	488	67.4
Vocational Agriculture teacher	117	16.3	109	15.2	492	68.5
Brother	59	8.5	133	19.3	499	72.2
Other teacher or principal	67	9.3	132	18.4	518	72.3
High school counselor	55	7.7	124	17.3	450	75.1
Sister	47	6.8	118	17.2	522	76.0
County Extension agent	50	7.0	84	11.8	580	81.2
Dean or associate dean of agriculture	45	6.3	71	9.9	598	83.8
Clergyman	23	3.2	29	4.1	661	92.7

Table 38

Change of Majors by Students Enrolled in Agriculture

Majors at Tennessee Universities

Since first enrolling in college, have you ever changed your major or concentration?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	166 (45.9)	21 (56.8)	70 (41.4)	71 (57.7)	25 (43.9)	353 (47.2)
No	196 (54.1)	16 (43.2)	99 (58.6)	52 (42.3)	32 (56.1)	395 (52.8)
Total	362	37	169	123	57	748

their major or concentration.

If students indicated they had changed their major or concentration, they were asked to indicate whether or not the most recent previous major or concentration was also in agriculture (Table 39). Of this group 206, or 53.4 percent said their previous major or concentration was not in agriculture.

Students participating in the study were asked to indicate factors important to them in choosing their current major. Table 40 summarizes the number and percent of student's evaluation of the factors according to "very important", "some importance", and "no importance". Factors having importance to students in choosing their major and listed by percentile rank are as follows: to prepare for a career; a preference of country life to city life; to help others; successful prior experience in agriculture; it would insure a good income; other; scholarships and/or financial assistance; had a course related to this in college; college teacher or adivsor suggested it; had a course related to this in high school; chance to make better grades; my family thought this would be best; my friends were in this major; high school teacher or counselor suggested it; and successful prior experience in home economics.

Students were asked to indicate their participation in agricultural organizations. Table 41 summarizes this information according to participation as a "leader or officer", "member", or "no participation". One hundred nineteen or 47.6 percent of the students had participated in departmental clubs as a leader or officer, or as a member. Three hundred eleven or 44.11 percent had participated on judging teams as a leader or officer, or as a member. Two hundred five or 29.12 percent of the students had participated in honorary fraternities, and 142 or 20.4 percent had participated in collegiate 4-H/FFA activities. One hundred thirty or 18.65

Table 39

Previous Major or Concentration for Students Who Changed Majors Since Enrolling in College

If changed major or concentration, was most recent previous major or concentration also in agriculture?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes	87 (48.3)	9 (39.1)	35 (44.3)	37 (51.4)	12 (37.5)	180 (46.6)
No	93 (51.7)	14 (60.9)	44 (55.7)	35 (48.6)	20 (62.5)	206 (53.4)
Total	180	23	79	72	32	386

Table 40

Factors Important to Students in Choosing Their Current Major

How important were the following things in choosing your present major?	Very Important		Some Importance		No Importance	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
To prepare for a career	569	77.2	151	20.5	17	2.3
A preference of country life to city life	378	51.2	199	27.0	162	21.9
To help others	256	35.3	310	42.8	159	21.9
Successful prior experience in agriculture	255	34.7	217	29.6	262	35.7
It would insure a good income	124	17.2	313	43.4	285	39.5
Other	109	43.6	10	4.0	131	52.4
Scholarships and/or financial assistance	124	17.1	152	20.9	451	62.0
Had a course related to this in college	107	14.9	140	19.5	471	65.6
College teacher or advisor suggested it	70	9.7	158	22.0	491	68.3
Had a course related to this in high school	94	13.1	109	15.2	515	71.7
Chance to make better grades	50	7.0	123	17.2	544	75.9
My family thought this would be best	26	3.6	144	20.0	549	76.4
My friends were in this major	24	3.3	112	15.6	584	81.1
High school teacher or counselor suggested it	29	4.0	102	14.2	589	81.8
Successful prior experience in home economics	16	2.3	33	4.7	657	93.1

Table 41

Participation in Organizations by Students Enrolled in

Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Please indicate to which of the following you belong and if you are a leader or officer.	Leader or Officer		Member		No Participation	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Departmental clubs	109	43.6	10	4.0	131	52.4
Judging teams	112	15.9	199	28.2	394	55.9
Honors fraternities/sororities	64	9.1	141	20.0	499	70.9
College 4-H/FFA/FHA	39	5.6	103	14.8	554	79.6
Student agriculture council	60	8.6	70	10.0	567	81.4
Social fraternities/sororities	44	6.4	77	11.2	568	82.4
Professional societies/associations	72	10.4	92	13.2	531	76.4

percent had participated in a student agriculture council as a leader or officer, or a member. One hundred twenty-one or 17.6 percent had participted in social fraternities as a leader or officer, or as a member; and 164 or 23.6 percent had participated in professional societies/associations as a leader or officer, or a member.

Students participating in the study were asked to indicate the sources of financial assistance they had received toward the cost of their college education (Table 42). Five hundred eighty-four or 79.24 percent said their parents had contributed to the cost of their college education. Four hundred eighty-one or 66.07 percent of the students said part-time work while in college had contributed to the cost of their college education, and 356 or 48.9 percent indicated that scholarships was a source that had contributed to the cost of their college education. Student loans or grants contributed to the cost of 316 or 43.59 percent of the students participating in the study.

Goals

Students were asked the question, "If you could have as much formal education as desired, which one of the following would you do?" The number and percent responses for this question are presented in Table 43. Two hundred sixteen or 28.9 percent of the students indicated they desired to complete work for a bachelors degree, and 190 or 25.4 percent indicated they desired the completion of a program for a masters degree. One hundred eighty-two or 24.4 percent said they desired to complete a program for a professional degree, and 149 or 20 percent said they desired completion of a program for a doctoral degree. Only 4 or .5 percent of the students said they would like to quit school before receiving their bachelors degree.

Students were then asked the question, "Which one of the following do you think you really will do about your formal education?" The number and

Table 42

Sources of Financial Assistance for Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Please indicate which of the following sources have contributed to the cost of your college education, including living expenses.	Yes		No	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Scholarships	356	48.9	372	51.1
Student loans or grants	316	43.6	409	56.4
Own savings	589	80.4	144	19.7
Part-time work while at college	481	66.1	247	33.9
Parents	584	79.2	153	20.8
Veterans benefits	22	3.1	688	96.9
Spouse	67	9.4	648	90.6
Other relatives or friends	115	16.1	599	83.9
Summer jobs	528	74.5	181	25.5

Table 43

Formal Education Desired by Students Enrolled in

Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

If you could have as much formal education as desired, which one of the following would you do?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Quit school before bachelors degree	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.5)
Go to a vocational training school or business school	4 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (0.8)
Complete work for a bachelors degree	86 (23.9)	6 (16.2)	59 (34.5)	45 (36.6)	20 (35.7)	216 (28.9)
Complete a program for a masters degree	86 (23.9)	10 (27.0)	45 (26.3)	34 (28.5)	14 (25.0)	190 (25.4)
Complete a program for a professional degree (vet., law, etc.)	97 (26.9)	10 (27.0)	40 (23.4)	19 (15.5)	16 (28.6)	182 (24.4)
Complete a program for a doctoral degree	86 (23.9)	11 (29.73)	23 (13.5)	23 (18.7)	6 (10.7)	149 (20.0)

percent responses for this item of the questionnaire are summarized in Table 44. Three hundred seventy-seven or 50.7 percent said they will complete work for a bachelors degree, 186 or 25 percent said they will complete a program for a masters degree, and 133 or 17.9 percent said they will complete a program for a professional degree. Forty or 5.4 percent said they will complete a program for a doctoral degree.

Students participating in the study were asked the question if they expected to do graduate work after they have their bachelors degree, did they expect to remain in an agricultural related concentration, and did they expect to remain at their present university. Table 45 summarizes the responses to these items on the questionnaire. Four hundred forty-four or 90.2 percent of the students expecting to do graduate work said they plan to remain in an agricultural related concentration. Two hundred seventy-seven or 57.1 percent said they expected to remain at their present university to do graduate work.

Table 46 indicates students' plans to eventually own a farm or ranch. Four hundred eighty-two or 65 percent of the students said they did plan to eventually own a farm or ranch alone, and not with any others having part ownership. One hundred fourteen or 15.4 percent said they would eventually own a farm or ranch with others as part ownership. One hundred forty-six or 19.7 percent of the students said they did not think they would eventually own a farm or ranch.

Students were asked to indicate whether or not they expected to inherit a farm or ranch some day (Table 47). One hundred fifty-two or 20.5 percent said yes, they definitely expected to inherit a farm or ranch some day; 292 or 39.4 percent said there was a possibility of inheriting a farm or ranch; and 289 or 39 percent said no, that they would definitely not inherit a farm

Table 44

Formal Education Expected to Complete by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Which one of the following do you think you really will do about your formal education?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Quit school before bachelors degree	3 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.5)
Go to a vocational traning school or business school	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.8)	3 (0.4)
Complete work for a bachelors degree	142 (40.0)	11 (29.7)	114 (67.5)	71 (57.7)	39 (69.6)	377 (50.7)
Complete a program for a masters degree	99 (27.7)	16 (43.2)	31 (18.3)	32 (26.02)	8 (14.3)	186 (25.0)
Complete a program for a professional degree (vet., law, etc.)	88 (24.6)	4 (10.8)	18 (10.7)	15 (12.2)	8 (14.3)	133 (17.9)
Complete a program for a doctoral degree	25 (7.0)	6 (16.2)	4 (2.4)	5 (4.07)	0 (0.0)	40 (5.4)

Table 45

Graduate Study in Agriculture Expected to Complete by Students

Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

If you expect to do graduate work after you have your bachelors degree, please answer the following:	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
a. Do you expect to remain in an agricultural related concentration?						
Yes	235 (92.5)	23 (74.2)	85 (89.5)	67 (90.5)	34 (89.5)	444 (90.2)
No	19 (7.5)	8 (25.8)	10 (10.5)	7 (9.5)	4 (10.5)	48 (9.8)
b. Do you expect to remain at your present university?						
Yes	185 (74.6)	11 (36.7)	50 (52.6)	23 (30.7)	8 (21.6)	277 (57.1)
No	63 (25.4)	19 (63.3)	45 (47.4)	52 (69.3)	29 (78.4)	208 (42.9)

Table 46

Plans to Eventually Own a Farm or Ranch by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Do you think you might eventually own a farm or ranch?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes, own alone	230 (64.1)	11 (29.7)	111 (66.1)	86 (70.5)	44 (78.6)	482 (65.0)
Yes, own with others	53 (14.8)	5 (13.5)	29 (17.3)	24 (19.7)	3 (5.4)	114 (15.4)
No	76 (21.2)	21 (56.8)	28 (16.7)	12 (9.8)	9 (16.1)	146 (19.7)

Table 47

Expectations to Inherit a Farm or Ranch by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Do you expect to inherit a farm or ranch someday?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Yes, definitely expect to	75 (21.0)	5 (13.5)	37 (21.9)	24 (19.7)	11 (20.0)	152 (20.5)
Some possibility of it	121 (33.8)	10 (27.0)	72 (42.6)	60 (49.2)	29 (52.7)	292 (39.4)
No, definitely won't	159 (44.4)	22 (59.5)	56 (33.1)	37 (30.3)	15 (27.3)	289 (39.0)
Already inherited one (or spouse did)	3 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.4)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	8 (1.1)

or ranch some day.

Students participating in the study were asked to indicate their anticipated income for their first full-time job after completing their formal education. As shown in Table 48, 184 or 25.5 percent of the students anticipated their income in their first full-time job after completing their formal education to be $20,000 or above. One hundred seventy or 23.2 percent estimated their income to be between $15,000 to $17,499 for their first full-time job after completing their formal education.

The students were asked to indicate the kind of community they preferred to live upon completion of their education (Table 49). Three hundred four or 40.8 percent said they would prefer to live in the country and on a farm or ranch; 136 or 18.2 percent said they would prefer to live in the country outside a city or village; and 130 or 17.4 percent said they would prefer to live in a smaller city having a population of 10,000 to 50,000. Less than 18 percent of the students said they would prefer to live in a city having a population of 50,000 or more.

The participants of the study were asked to compare agriculture students to non-agriculture students on several selected variables. The responses to this comparison are summarized in Table 50. Two hundred eighty or 45.5 percent said that agriculture students are more sure of what they want to do in life than non-agriculture students. Three hundred eighty-one or 56.7 percent said that agriculture students are less interested in classical music and good literature than non-agriculture students. Four hundred seventy-three or 70.1 percent said that agriculture students are more friendly and helpful to other people than non-agriculture students. One hundred ninety-six or 29.1 percent said that agriculture students are less interested in making a lot of money than non-agriculture students.

Table 48

Anticipated Income in First Full-Time Job by Students Enrolled

in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

What do you anticipate your income will be in your first full-time job after completing your formal education?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
Less than $5,000	1 (0.3)	1 (2.7)	2 (1.2)	2 (1.6)	1 (1.8)	7 (1.0)
$5,000 to 7,499	8 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.4)	3 (2.5)	0 (0.0)	15 (2.0)
$7,500 to 9,999	17 (4.8)	1 (2.7)	10 (6.0)	2 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	30 (4.1)
$10,000 to 12,499	26 (7.4)	1 (2.7)	18 (10.8)	17 (13.9)	6 (10.9)	68 (9.3)
$12,500 to 14,999	49 (13.9)	4 (10.8)	26 (15.6)	20 (16.4)	12 (21.8)	111 (15.1)
$15,000 to 17,499	76 (21.5)	7 (18.9)	41 (24.6)	32 (26.2)	14 (25.5)	170 (23.2)
$17,500 to 19,999	73 (20.7)	10 (27.0)	31 (18.6)	26 (21.3)	9 (16.4)	149 (20.3)
$20,000 or above	103 (29.2)	13 (35.1)	35 (21.0)	20 (16.4)	13 (23.6)	184 (25.1)

Table 49

Kind of Community Prefer to Live Upon Completion of Education by Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

We are interested in the kind of community you would prefer to live once you complete your education. If you could live in any size community you wanted, which one of the following would you like best?	UT-K N (Percent)	TSU N (Percent)	MTSU N (Percent)	TTU N (Percent)	APSU N (Percent)	Total N (Percent)
A large metropolitan city (over 500,000 in population)	14 (3.9)	5 (13.5)	8 (4.7)	2 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	29 (3.9)
A medium-sized city (50,000 to 500,000 in population)	49 (13.7)	15 (40.5)	19 (11.1)	11 (8.9)	7 (12.3)	101 (13.5)
A smaller city (10,000 to 50,000 in population)	60 (16.8)	10 (27.0)	31 (18.1)	21 (17.1)	8 (14.0)	130 (17.4)
A town or village (under 10,000 in population)	24 (6.7)	1 (2.7)	10 (5.9)	8 (6.5)	3 (5.3)	46 (6.2)
In the country, outside a city or village	73 (20.4)	2 (5.4)	21 (12.3)	30 (24.4)	10 (17.5)	136 (18.2)
In the country and on a farm or ranch, outside of a city or village	138 (38.6)	4 (10.8)	82 (48.0)	51 (41.5)	29 (50.9)	304 (40.8)

Table 50

Agriculture Students Compared to Non-Agriculture Students as Viewed by

Students Enrolled in Agriculture Majors at Tennessee Universities

Agriculture students are:	More than non-ag students		Same as non-ag students		Less than non-ag students	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Sure of what they want to do in life	280	45.54	363	53.86	31	4.60
Interested in competing for high grades	75	11.11	515	76.30	85	12.59
Interested in classical music and good literature	38	5.65	253	37.65	381	56.70
Friendly and helpful to other people	473	70.07	169	25.04	33	4.89
Willing to accept new and unusual ideas	165	24.52	402	59.73	106	15.75
Interested in making a lot of money	61	9.05	417	61.87	196	29.08
Tolerant of people who come from a different background	213	31.56	343	50.81	119	17.63
Seriously concerned about the state of the nation and of the world	252	37.39	378	56.08	44	6.53
Interested in having a good time at college	78	11.61	532	79.17	62	9.23

Conclusions and/or Recommendations

1. The number of female and minority students enrolled in agriculture is relatively low; consequently, greater emphasis should be placed on recruiting women and minorities for agriculture majors in colleges and universities.
2. Current and accurate information about projected career opportunities in the agricultural industry must be provided. Further, students need to be informed about the majors and options best suited in preparing for these careers.
3. The number of students with an agricultural background continues to decline; therefore, recruitment programs must provide a greater focus on high school students and parents who have little knowledge of agriculture.
4. A large number of students in agriculture majors have limited agricultural experience; consequently, adjustments must be made in teaching methods and techniques to accomodate the increasing student population with no agricultural background. Work experiences, internships, and laboratory experiences must receive increased emphasis in curricula.
5. Two-year colleges appear to be good sources to recruit students for agricultural careers.
6. A large percentage of agriculture students had transferred from other curricula. Current and accurate information about agriculture majors and the career opportunities

in agriculture must be provided to students in other curricula, particularly to those who haven't declared a major.

7. Parents are providing a great deal of influence regarding majors their children select. Parents must be informed of the exciting and challenging careers in the increasingly scientific and highly technical field of agriculture. The image of agriculture must be enhanced.

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